

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2749

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1039

FOR ARA ONLY - PIERCE CAR, FROM WOOLLONS

EO 11652: AGDS (DOWNGRADE ON AUGUST 1, 1977)

TAGS: OVIP, BB

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVEL PLANS

REFS: A) PIERCE-KOELEMAY TELECON OF MAY 10

B) PORTER PIERCE TELECON OF MAY 10

C) PORTER PERCE TELECON OF MAY 11

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER TOLD KOELEMAY MAY 10 THAT PRIME MINISTER PLANNED FLY MIAMI-LONDON JUNE 4 OR 5 AFTER VISIT TO EL SALVADOR AND REMAIN A MONTH IN THE UK AFTER WORKKING PORTION OF COMMONWEALTH MEETING ENDS JUNE 15. HOWEVER, TODAY (5/11) BRITISH TELL US THEY NOW UNDERSTAND ADAMS HAS SCRAPPED VACATION PLANS AND WILL RETURN TO BARBADOS IMMEDIATELY AFTER LONDON MEETING. MINEXTAFF PERM SEC SYMONDS TOLD PORTER THAT ADAMS WOULD PROBABLY RETURN TO BARBADOS JUNE 18, EITHER DIRECTLY OR VIA THE US.

2. ALTHOUGH SYMONDS QUERIED IN CASUAL MANNER, HE PROMTPLY AND CORRECTLY INFERRED REASON BEHIND THE QUESTION. (PORTER DID NOT RPT DID NOT CONFIRM THE INFERENCE). SYMONDS SAID GOB ALREADY AWARE SECRETARY MIGHT TRANSIT BARBADOS ENROUTE HOME FROM OASGA AND SUGGESTED THE PM'S PLANS WERE "FLEXIBLE."

3. OUR GUESS IS ADAMS WOULD PROBABLY ALTER HIS PLANS IN
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ORDER TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH THE SECRETARY ON 17 JUNE. (IF A SHORT MEETING IS WORKED OUT WE SUGGEST SOMETHING SLIGHTLY MORE THAN AN AIRPORT CHAT. POSSIBLY A TEN MINUTE DRIVE TO A HOTEL NEAR THE AIRPORT WOULD BE MORE APPEALING TO THE BARBADIANS WITHOUT EITHER CUTTING INTO THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL TIME OR POSING ANY PARTICULAR SECURITY PROBLEMS.)

4. IF MINEXTAFF FORDE ALREADY PLANS TO LEAVE THE UK IN TIME FOR JUNE 14 OPENING OF OASGA IN GRENADA, A MEETING OF THE SECRETARY AND FORDE IN BARBADOS ON THE 14TH SHOULD NOT PRESENT ANY REAL PROBLEM.

5. BOTH BRITISH AND SYMMONDS SAY MINEXTAFF HENRY FORDE WILL HEAD GOB'S OASGA DELEGATION. BRITISH SAY COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN REPRESENTATION AT GRENADA MEETING WILL BE -- EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR GAIRY'S PRESENCE -- "LOW LEVEL."

6. OASGA RELATED MATTERS: WE HAVE HEARD UNCONFIRMED BUT DISTURBING STORY THAT LIAT HAS NOT YET ACTUALLY AGREED TO GAIRY'S REQUEST IT "BLOCK OFF" SUFFICIENT SEATS INTO GRENADA ON REGULAR FLIGHTS TO ACCOMMODATE OAS DELEGATIONS, OAS STAFFERS, PRESS, ETC. OIC MAY WISH TO INQUIRE INTO THIS ASPECT IF ANY USG TRAVELERS DEPENDENT ON LIAT TO GET INTO GRENADA. WE RE-ITERATE OUR CAUTION THAT "ASSURANCES" BY GAIRY ON ANY FACET OF CONFERENCE LOGISTICS NOT BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE. ALSO TO BE NOTED IS CAUTION VOICED BY LOCAL PILOTS THAT PRIMITIVE NATURE GRENADA'S PEARLS AIRPORT (NO TAXI WAY, NO FUNCTIONING RADAR, LIMITED RADIO CAPABILITY, NO LIGHTS AND POOR LATE AFTERNOON VISIBILITY NOT BE FORGOTTEN. THERE'S A REAL POSSIBILITY OF IN-THE-AIR AND ON-THE-GROUND JAM UPS IF SEVERAL CHARTER FLIGHTS ARRIVE SIMULTANEOUSLY. OAS MAY WISH TO ATTEMPT TO SCHEDULE OR AT LEAST COORDINATE ARRIVALS. AGAIN GOG CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ADEQUATELY HANDLE THIS.

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